

The Southeast News

VOLUME 15, NUMBER 8

JUNE 1967

Special Summer Ministry

DAVID A. ANDES, senior student at Andover-Newton Seminary, is serving in the National Park Ministry at Yosemite National Park in California. His week-day job will be in a service station in the park, but then his ministerial duties will include vespers, recreation, visiting with tourists, ministering to the many students who work in the park in the summer, and giving general assistance to Rev. Donald L. Baldwin, minister of the Yosemite Community Church.

David is a member of Central Church, Atlanta, and is in care of the Georgia-South Carolina Acting Association of the Southeast Conference.

ELIZABETH JOHNSON, daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. Karlton C. Johnson, of Atlanta, a member of Central Church in Atlanta and a June graduate of Keuka College in New York, will be working with the local churches in the Southeast Conference this summer. She will assist in Vacation Church Schools and assist Miss Emilie Pitcock in the work of Christian Education in the Conference.

JAMES HENDERSON, a June graduate of Interdenominational Theological Seminary in Atlanta, will work under the ASSIST program of our Board for Homeland Ministries. ASSIST means A Seminary Student in Summer Training. Mr. Henderson will be assisting the Rev. Joseph E. Boone at Rush Memorial Church and the Rev. Homer C. McEwen at First Congregational Church in Atlanta. Other duties may include some work with the Carroll Heights Church and with the Macon Church. He served in the Air Force for three years before taking up his seminary work.

PETER I. POULTER, a seminary student from England, will be working in the Central Alabama Association, especially in the Mt. Olive Church, Tallassee.

Lay Life And Work Area Meetings July 30

The Lay Life and Work Commission is making plans for nine or ten simultaneous Lay Workshops to be held in various geographical areas of the Southeast Conference.

Designed to help lay men and women interpret what it means to live "the Christian faith in today's world," these area meetings will include an audio-visual presentation on the world in which we witness, introduction to study on *We Believe*, a worship service from *This Is Our Faith*, a presentation on the Family Thank Offering, discussion on "How We Give and How Our Gifts Are Used," and general considerations for the 1967-68 Adult Theme, "Living Our Faith In Today's World." Details on location and leadership for each area meeting will be sent in a forthcoming mailing. Meanwhile, save Sunday, July 30, for these very significant meetings.

Ministers' Health Insurance Program

Letters have gone to the full-time ministers and the churches they serve asking for the enrollment of the minister in the Health Insurance Program of the United Church of Christ. Both the Board of Directors and the Southeast Conference have approved this program. In order for our Conference to join this program, 75% of our full-time ordained pastors must apply and after that, the part-time men, the Conference staff and others can be enrolled. If your church has a full-time minister, one that is giving his full time to the work of the church, then would you see to it that the church approves and encourages that minister to join the plan?

Each church with a full-time minister should have received information and the enrollment card. The enrollment card should be signed by both the church and the minister and returned to the Conference office.

Over and over again, our ministers are fraught with medical and hospital bills they cannot pay because of low salaries they are receiving. This makes for an unsteady ministry. Many of the 40 state Conferences have their ministers enrolled, and we hope ours will be next.

Are You Giving

Service To The Aged?

The Southeast Conference Office would like to have a list of churches in the Conference offering non-residential services for older persons. Don't try to prepare summaries, but send the name of the church, an indication of the type of programming being offered, and the name and address of the person from whom we could secure a report of the project. Please send to 673 Piedmont Ave., N. E., Atlanta, Ga. 30308.

News from the Churches of the Southeast Conference

Williams Chapel Has Homecoming

Williams Congregational Christian Chapel, Rev. Elgie Lairsey pastor, held its homecoming service May 7, 1967, with Dr. William J. Andes as guest speaker for the morning service.

Williams Chapel was organized in 1933 and the first house of worship was built with the help of a grant-loan of \$600 from the Congregational Church Building Society. In December, 1965, this sum was repaid to the Board for Homeland Ministries of the United Church of Christ, successor to the Church Building Society.

For the first dozen years, the pastor served three other churches. Through the help of the Women's Missionary Guild, the only group to meet regularly, the church reached its first real milestone of progress in 1945, becoming a full-time self-supporting church, soon built a parsonage, and an educational building.

In August 1958, a new building for worship was put into use. In 1963, additional land was bought. From the bulletin for homecoming day: "We are humbly grateful for God's never ceasing goodness to us. For the service and sacrifice of dedicated ministers our church is indebted. We had the use and benefit of \$600 without interest for almost a third of a century and a large portion of our pastor's salary was paid by the Mission Board for over twelve years. We were benefitted by services from the state and national bodies of the church at any time we requested it. Although the legal obligation has been discharged, we still owe a debt of gratitude which is a debt of honor, and we can meet it only by continued support of the organizations of the denomination."

From Pilgrim Church, Chattanooga, Tenn.

Rev. Arnold Slater, minister of Pilgrim Church, Chattanooga, is to represent the Executive Council of the United Church of Christ and will be one of the speakers at the Penn-West Conference to be held in Pittsburgh, Pa., Frostburg College, from June 11-13.

Rev. Harold A. Schulz Wins Freedoms Foundation

Award For July 4 Sermon

For his Independence Day sermon, "Proclaim Liberty to All the World," preached at St. John's Church July 3, 1966, Rev. Harold A. Schulz received the Freedoms Foundation major award and the George Washington Honor Medal Award.

In part, Harold stated in his sermon: "In being Americans we are fortunate to find an open road to worship freely the God of love rather than to be forced to bow down to false and lifeless gods of man's evil invention. That we possess the divine privilege to worship God is the genius of the American pattern of life. It is the sacred tie that unites us as citizens of America at the same time. The opportunity to worship God as one desires is spiritual breath to the soul as oxygen is to the lungs. It means life and the pursuit of happiness.

"It is well to observe that in the history of our country liberty has been and continues to be proclaimed to all the inhabitants by men of good courage. We see General George Washington at prayer at Valley Forge seeking the needed strength, guidance and providence of God to continue the battle . . . There is Abraham Lincoln who walked out of a log cabin in the Kentucky woods to become a lawyer and then a senator . . . we watch that gangling statesman leaving his home in Springfield, Illinois, to become President of the United States and to give freedom to the Negro members of our society . . .

"Are we not aware of those men who are fighting gallantly and praying today to safeguard these rights from the threat of the evil monster of Communism . . . from the forest of Valley Forge to the jungles of Vietnam, America is still the land of the free and the home of the brave."

"Let us proclaim our religious liberty by using it. Our nation's greatest asset is that of acknowledging and worshipping the one and only Power in life . . . Inasmuch as man must of necessity worship something or someone, that Someone must be God.

"Let us all prayerfully remember

Citation Given Sexton At Birmingham

Mr. Haywood Jackson, one of the sextons of Pilgrim Congregational Church, Birmingham, Alabama, was given a citation at the Honors Convocation at Daniel Payne College on May 23rd for his outstanding contributions to art of building maintenance and custodial care. This suggests that one can praise God in many ways, particularly in our daily work.

Rev. Floyd M. Price Serving Huntsville

Rev. Floyd M. Price, 9614 Todd Mill Road, S. E., is serving as interim pastor of our Huntsville United Church.

Mr. Price is a member of the Nebraska Conference. He was moderator of the Southwest Nebraska Association when it merged with the Loup Valley to form the Pioneer Association, of which he became the first president.

Robert Saunders To Be Ordained

Robert Saunders, a former member of Pilgrim Church, Chattanooga, Tenn., the son of Mr. and Mrs. Allen Saunders, is to be ordained Sunday, June 11, in the church he is serving as minister in Pittsfield, Maine. We rejoice in this event and offer our congratulations. (Pilgrim Church Newsletter)

that we are free today on this Independence Sunday of 1966 because of the Spirit of 1776."

Edward Schulz also received an Honor Certificate award from Freedoms Foundation for an essay entitled "Why I Love My Country." Edward is the 11-year-old son of Rev. Harold Schulz.

The Cullman minister was also invited by Dr. Kenneth Wells, president of Freedoms Foundation, to prepare prayers for a new program called "Today's Prayer for Tomorrow." Dr. Wells will tape these prayers which will be used on radio stations throughout the country.

News from the Churches of the Southeast Conference

E. Alabama Ministers Meet

On May 15, 1967, ministers of the East Alabama area met at Hillside Church in LaGrange, Ga., for supper and for an organizational meeting. The ladies of the Hillside Church provided an excellent supper. Dr. J. H. Dollar, Pastor-at-Large for the Association, presided at the meeting that followed. Fourteen ministers were present, including the Conference Minister.

The following officers were elected:

President: Ralph Worley,
Vice-President: Allen Hollis
(Also Program Chairman)

Secretary - Treasurer: Edward L. Smallwood

The next meeting will be September 18, 1967, at the Lanett Church.

The ministers listed the dates for the revivals in the churches and hope to attend whenever possible the meetings outside of churches they serve.

It was felt that gathering together would help them to get better acquainted and at the same time develop a better ministry to the churches in the area. Plans were also developed for the visit of Rev. John F. Crozier, a missionary to India, October 5-12, 1967. Rev. Walter Hall of Lanett, Moderator of the Association, is planning the schedule for Mr. Crozier. Churches desiring to have Mr. Crozier should contact Mr. Hall.

All ministers in the Association are eligible — whether active or retired. No dues are collected, and each man pays for his meal. Monthly meetings will be held except during vacation months.

News From Blackwood Church, Headland

The Men's Sunday School Class and the Women's Fellowship of the Blackwood Congregational Christian Church, Rt. 1, Headland, Alabama, have recently purchased folding chairs for the Sunday School rooms. The Young Adult class is in the process of purchasing additional chairs for the Sunday School rooms.

Plans are now underway for a Bible School to be held at the church beginning June 12, 1967. Plans are also underway for a summer revival which will be held beginning July 23.

— Judy Faison, Reporter



Southeast News Reporter

Miss Judy Faison, Route 1, Headland, Alabama, is reporter to *The Southeast News* for Northwest Florida-South Alabama Association.

Judy is a member of Blackwood Congregational Christian Church. She teaches the Junior High Class in Sunday School and is reporter for the church. Judy is employed with the Department of Pensions and Security, Abbeville, Alabama, as finance officer.

Announces Retirement

Chaplain John A. Turner recently retired from the United States Air Force chaplaincy after many years of service. He will be living in Mississippi and his address is:

Chaplain John A. Turner
404 Popps Ferry Road
Rural Route 2
Biloxi, Mississippi 39532

He writes that he is not in a position to accept a call, but he is available for supply or interim church work in the area. The Conference wishes for him a joyful and meaningful retirement and thanks him for his services as a chaplain.

The United Church Of Christ As It Looks Today

Dr. Fred S. Buschmeyer, April 29, 1967
Southeast Conference Annual Meeting

All of God's little people are saying all over the world, "We will be free from contempt." This is the most significant sound made by a united single group in our day and age. This bespeaks something of tremendous import to me as a member of the United Church of Christ. This means something more than being given formal status. All of God's world today is in a state of ferment. You cannot put down this, and in God's world today you cannot say that things are the same now as they will be in the future. We have an ecumenical movement. The United Church of Christ has done something about ecumenicity. We have cut across national, cultural, and ethnic lines. We have said that we believe in a God who is the God of all history. For the first time, we have tried to cross historic, basic, and cultural back-grounds. We have brought together denominations of different families. In America, we have not really been pure Congregational — we have practiced a modified Presbyterianism rather than pure Congregationalism-delegated authority. The E & R side practices congregationalism altogether. We now have defined freedom in the church and our E & R friends brought this. Congregationalists have brought to the United Church the insistence that every local church has the right to be in and of itself an authentic reflection of Jesus Christ.

The authority of God through Jesus Christ is here and if we ever lose it, it will be because we throw it away ourselves. Five years ago, we had 62 state Conferences — now we have 40 state Conferences, through consolidation. They have all had growing pains putting churches together.

If we were to take one of the programs of actions taken at General Synod, I think you and I would be proud of our place in history. Two things we should bear in mind:

1. What are we doing in line with the plans of God?

2. Is it actually meeting the needs of his people in this time in history?

THE SOUTHEAST NEWS

Second-Class Postage Paid at
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

Published monthly by and for
the churches of the

SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE The United Church of Christ

673 Piedmont Avenue N. E.

Atlanta, Ga. 30308 TRinity 4-2558

Single Subscription \$1.50 Per Year

Group Subscription \$1.00 Per Year

Printed by The Roanoke Leader
Roanoke, Alabama

Vol. 15 June 1967 No. 8

Stewardship Council Spring Packet Has Arrived

Each pastor should have received just recently the 1967 Spring Packet from the Stewardship Council. Open it! Get set to use it! Materials are to be ordered for your summer and fall work in the church.

1. Materials to help with offerings and special appeals. "Neighbors in Need" materials are in the packet. This offering should be received on World-Wide Communion Sunday, October 1, 1967.

2. Materials that you can distribute to your parishioners: "Year-Round Stewardship" calendar and leaflets, the 1967-68 mission theme leaflet, a new Photo Poster Set on "Breakthrough" and a United Church Tours announcement.

3. A new copy of "Stewardship Facts" (and what a source for your stewardship program this booklet is), announcements about the 1967 Christian Enlistment plans, the "Desk Calendar and Plan Book" and the Calendar of Prayer and Directory."

There is an order blank enclosed in the Packet. Get your materials early. Know what you are going to do this fall. There is provided a new stencil service for your publications. All of this went to each pastor!

"How Communicate This Gospel?"

—from Rev. Karlton C. Johnson's
Address at Annual Conference,
Birmingham, Alabama

Speaking on the subject "How Communicate This Gospel?", Rev. Karlton C. Johnson based his remarks on statistics compiled for this purpose and based on figures in the Year Book.

On the basis of figures, the Southeast Conference has now about 129 churches, 5 of which are inactive, where we had 145 in 1961 (including E & R and Conv. of So. churches now in SE Conf.) Our membership in 1961 was 12,912 and in 1965 it was 11,485. The total benevolent giving dropped from \$73,194 in 1961 to \$56,424 in 1965.

Nationally, one-fourth of the churches have less than 100 members; in our Conference, we have three-fourths of our churches with less than 100 members. The number of small congregations has been consistently high during the past 15 years.

Between 1950 and 1960, 56 of the 129 congregations listed in the 1966 Year Book had a decline in church membership. Between 1960 and 1965, 60 of the 129 congregations reported a membership decrease. Many of these church membership decreases occurred in communities where the population had increased.

Besides this, we have many congregations sharing the services of a pastor with one or more churches. It is probable that about 61 churches with fewer than 100 members are either without pastors, served by laymen, served by part-time pastors or have their own full-time ministers.

In the face of this decline how can we communicate this gospel? First, how do we communicate the gospel? By evangelism — reaching into the community and the world; edify the saints — growing in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior; and influencing favorably the social structure and climate in which the church exists. We need 150 people giving \$70 minimum a year just to begin supporting a church. We need 200 people just to support a church at a bare minimum. We have about 24 that qualify on this basis. A church of 150 members is not a full-time job for a man worth

New Professor Named At Vanderbilt

A widely-known church historian, Dr. Wilhelm Pauck, has been named distinguished Professor of Church History at the Vanderbilt University Divinity School. His appointment becomes effective September 1, 1967.

Dr. Pauck, leaving his position at Union Theological Seminary in New York after a tenure of fourteen years, becomes Vanderbilt's fourth Distinguished Professor. Dr. Pauck served as professor of Church History and then Charles A. Briggs Graduate Professor of Church History at Union. Prior to that, he was at the Chicago Theological Seminary as an instructor and professor of Church History and at the same time taught history at the University of Chicago.

Born in Laasphe, Germany, in 1901, he studied at University of Goettingen and received theology degrees at University of Berlin and University of Giessen. In 1964, he earned a Litt. D. degree at Upsala College in New Jersey.

Dr. Pauck has published five books and contributed to ten others. In addition, he frequently writes for religious journals and magazines. One of his more famous works, *The Church Against the World*, was written in collaboration with Richard Niebuhr and Francis Miller in 1934. An expert on Martin Luther and the Reformation, Pauck was quoted extensively by Time magazine in their recent cover story on that early Sixteenth Century Reformation leader.

his salt. What can we consider?

1. Amalgamation — merge with another congregation, making one church.

2. Yoked Parish — one pastor serving two or more churches in cooperation.

3. Federate — join with another church of another denomination. What are the deterrents to this? Oversentimentality for the building and its contents, for the cemetery, and for the location; and idolatry of the building.

We can come face to face with our situation and grapple with it or we can push it under the rug and do nothing. We have called our Conference Minister to one of the toughest jobs in the country — how are we going to help him do his job?

Annual Race Relations

Institute At Fisk

The 24th Annual Institute of Race Relations is being held at Fisk University June 26-July 8, 1967. Theme for the institute this year is "Human Relations Frontiers." The program includes seminar meetings each morning from 8 to 12, with half-hour coffee break between them. Informal clinics are held in the afternoon from 1:30 to 3:30. The groups — centered around problems in fields of employment, community action, and religion and race — are led by qualified workers in these fields.

Payment of a fee of \$80 will cover all expenses for registration, tuition, and room and board. A limited number of full and partial scholarships is available. Participants may earn three semester hours of academic credit in sociology or education.

Write to: Race Relations Department, Amistad Research Center, United Church of Christ, Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee 37203.

Recommended For Retirement Planning

The Minister Retires by Dr. Harold N. Skidmore, field secretary of the CC pension board, stresses planning ahead for the "new adventure" of retirement. Available free from the Congregational Board of Ministerial Relief, 287 Park Ave. S., New York 10010.

Another Missionary Is Expelled From Rhodesia

Some 250 Rhodesians, black and white, went to the airport in Salisbury, Rhodesia, to say goodbye to the Rev. Neill Richards, his wife and two small children. They sang "God Be With You Till We Meet Again" and kept on singing it even after the police ordered them to stop.

Mr. Richards is the third UCBWM missionary expelled from Rhodesia. The government declared him a "prohibited immigrant" on April 13 and gave the family seven days to leave the country. No reason was offered. He was one of 10 UCBWM missionaries who refused to register with the government last June.

Veteran Minister, Samuel Penn, Dies

The Rev. Samuel Madison Penn, 87, retired Congregational Christian minister, died on Thursday, May 25, in Coweta General Hospital, Newnan, Ga., after a lengthy illness.

A native of Paulding County, Ga., Mr. Penn was born July 22, 1879, the son of the late William Taylor and Josephine Stewart Penn. He graduated from Atlanta Theological Seminary in 1913 with a BBL degree.

He served many churches in Georgia, North Carolina, and Alabama, including some in and around Roanoke. He was pastor of Center Congregational Church in Atlanta at the beginning of his ministry. He retired after 50 years in Christian service.

Mr. Penn was married to the former Nellie Durham of Acworth, Ga. She preceded him in death by eight months. Both had resided at Newnan with son Paul and his family since 1962.

Funeral services were held at Antioch Congregational Christian Church, Roanoke, Ala., on Sunday afternoon, May 28th. The Rev. H. Dan Rice, pastor of First Methodist Church of Newnan, Dr. Jesse Dollar, the Rev. E. G. Clark, and the Rev. Olin Sheppard of Roanoke officiated. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Survivors are two daughters, Mrs. Carl Lyndon of Sophia, N. C., and Mrs. Harris Coletrane of North Miami, Fla.; seven sons, Buell Penn of Roanoke, Ala., George Penn, D. D., of Surfside, Fla., Paul Penn of Newnan, Ga., Samuel Penn of Marow, Ga., Horace Penn of Leaksville, N. C., Melbourne Penn of Lanett, Ala., and Walter Penn of Birmingham, Ala.; 17 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

The Rev. Mr. Penn is also survived by two sisters and three brothers.

Hart Helmich To Head

Lay Life And Work

Dr. Hartland H. Helmich will succeed Miss Helen Huntington Smith as executive director of the Council for Lay Life and Work when she retires July 1, 1967.

Dr. Helmich, 42, has been Secretary for Higher Education in the UCBHM division of higher education and AMA since 1961. He also serves as administrative secretary of the United Ministries in Higher Education.

Miss Smith came to the council in 1963, the first woman to head a major national agency of a Protestant denomination. The council itself is a "first" — the first co-educational organization for the laity in American Protestantism.

Dr. Helmich sees his new post as an opportunity to help lay members "Live their faith in responsible relationship with all men."

Dr. Helmich graduated from Eden Seminary and began his career in 1948, later serving as director of Campus Christian Life in the E & R Church.

Moments Of Concern

From Task Force

"To help recruit chaplains from among United Church of Christ ministers and to assist them as they carry on their ministry among the men and women of the armed forces are among the functions of the Council for Church and Ministry of the United Church of Christ. Through your support of Our Christian World Mission the Council is enabled to serve as our liaison with the one hundred and twenty-five chaplains from the United Church of Christ who serve in this specialized ministry."

Peace Package Available

A limited number of copies of material on China and Vietnam, mailed earlier to all ministers, are available from Central Distribution Service in Philadelphia. It includes President Herbster's "Pastoral Letter on China," the National Council of Churches' "Appeal for debate and action on Vietnam," and a letter on the UCC Peace Priority Program from Dr. Alan Geyer, CCSA's director of international relations.

THE SOUTHEAST NEWS
673 Piedmont Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

Second Class Postage Paid
at Atlanta, Georgia

In The Good Old Summertime

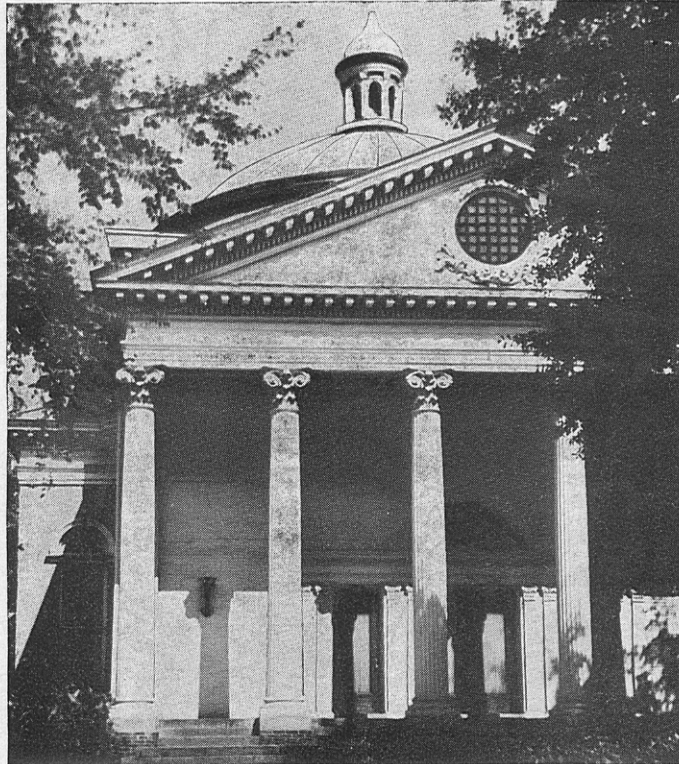
In June our delegates and Conference Minister will attend the General Synod being held in Cincinnati June 21-29, 1967. Immediately following the Synod members of our Commission on Evangelism will attend a planning conference on the 1968-69 Emphasis, "The Local Church in God's Mission," to be held in Alliance, Ohio, June 30 - July 5, 1967.

Many of our churches will be holding Vacation Church Schools and revivals. Homecoming and memorial services are being held. Several churches are holding Retreats, making plans for the fall and winter. Rev. and Mrs. John L. Martin of Montgomery, Ala., are planning to attend the Ministers' Conference at La Foret, Colorado, in July. In nine or ten areas of our Conference, Lay Life and Work Commission will be holding simultaneous meetings on Sunday, July 30th. Both laity and clergy are expected to attend. Programs and plans for lay groups will be discussed.

The Southeast Conference office will be moved in July, since the old church building now housing Central Church in Atlanta is sold and will be torn down. Place and telephone number of the new Conference office will be given later. If you can't get in touch with those of us in the office during this period of moving, call Miss Emilie Pitcock at her home, telephone Atlanta 451-6975, or W. J. Andes at his home, telephone 636-5516. In June, Mrs. Wilmer L. McCord will not be in the office as much as usual because of an operation on the arm that was broken back in the winter.

In the meantime, we hope that the churches will continue sending their OCWM gifts because summer is frequently a very difficult time for the Conference, financially speaking. Use the present Conference address until notified differently: 673 Piedmont Ave., N. E., Atlanta, Ga. 30308.

— W. J. Andes



Our Thanks To Central Church

The Southeast Conference has been housed in the building of Central Congregational Church (United Church of Christ) since the organization of the former Southeast Convention in 1950. This building is to be torn down this summer, probably in August, and the congregation is building a new church home at 2684 Clairmont Rd. N. E., in Atlanta.

The Conference has occupied three small rooms in the basement fellowship area of the church building. As time has gone by, the offices have become crowded. In these rooms are three desks, filing cabinets, a work table, three typewriters and desks, an adding

machine, addressograph machine, several bookcases, visual aids, projectors, literature, supplies, etc. With three people, and sometimes a fourth, working in these offices the "crowded ways of life" become real.

The Southeast Conference owes a debt of gratitude to Central Church. The rent paid to the church has been very low, finally reaching \$50 a month. Parking facilities have been furnished the Conference without cost. Our many thanks to pastor and people.

The Conference will move its offices in the first part of July to a new location. This will be announced in the July issue of *Southeast News*.